

 ORIGINAL

Choi70.ple

LEONARDO M. RAPADAS

United States Attorney

KARON V. JOHNSON

Assistant U.S. Attorney

Suite 500, Sirena Plaza

108 Hernan Cortez Avenue

Agana, Guam 96910

Telephone: (671) 472-7332/7283

Telecopier: (671) 472-7334

Attorneys for United States of America

**FILED**  
DISTRICT COURT OF GUAM

MAY 21 2008

JEANNE G. QUINATA  
Clerk of Court

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE TERRITORY OF GUAM

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

vs.

DEUK SOON CHOI, nka PEREDA,

Defendant.

CRIMINAL CASE NO. 08-00003

**PLEA AGREEMENT**

Pursuant to Rule 11(c)(1)(B), the United States and the defendant, DEUK SOON CHOI nka PEREDA, enter into the following plea agreement:

1. The defendant agrees to enter a guilty plea to Count I of a Superseding Indictment charging her with Criminal Conspiracy in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2 and 371. The government will move to dismiss Count II at sentencing.

2(a) The defendant, DEUK SOON CHOI nka PEREDA, further agrees to fully and truthfully cooperate with Federal law enforcement agents concerning their investigation of fraudulently issued Guam drivers licenses, illegal employment of aliens, and related unlawful activities. Cooperation shall include providing all information known to defendant regarding any criminal activity, including but not limited to the offense to which she is pleading guilty.

1 Cooperation will also include complying with all reasonable instructions from the United States;  
2 submitting to interviews by investigators and attorneys at such reasonable times and places to be  
3 determined by counsel for the United States; producing to the United States all non-privileged  
4 documents (including claimed personal documents) and other materials in the possession,  
5 custody or control of defendant requested by attorneys and agents of the United States; and  
6 testifying fully and truthfully before any grand juries, hearings, trials or any other proceedings  
7 where defendant's testimony is deemed by the United States to be relevant. Defendant  
8 understands that such cooperation shall be provided to any state, territorial, local or federal law  
9 enforcement agencies designated by counsel for the United States. Further, it is understood and  
10 agreed that defendant shall not directly, indirectly, or intentionally disclose anything defendant  
11 knows or had done concerning the United States' investigation to anyone other than defendant's  
12 attorney. Defendant agrees to take no steps directly or indirectly to warn any subject of this  
13 investigation that defendant, a subject or anyone else is being investigated.  
14

15 2(b) The United States will make this cooperation known to the Court prior to the  
16 defendant's sentencing. The defendant further understands that she remains liable and subject to  
17 prosecution for any criminal schemes of which she does not fully advise the United States, or for  
18 any material omissions in this regard.

19 2(c) This agreement is not contingent in any way upon the outcome of any investigation,  
20 proceeding or subsequent trial. Thus, none of the rights and obligations described above are in  
21 any way dependent upon a grand jury returning an indictment, a jury's verdict at any trial, or the  
22 success of any prosecution.

23 2(d) Except as otherwise herein provided, and in particular in Paragraph 8 of this plea  
24 agreement, the United States agrees not to prosecute defendant for any other non-violent  
25 offenses which were committed in the District of Guam or the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)  
26 which defendant reveals to Federal authorities during his cooperation with the United States.  
27 This agreement is limited to crimes committed by defendant in the districts of Guam or the  
28

1 CNMI.

2  
3 3. The defendant, DEUK SOON CHOI nka PEREDA, understands that the maximum  
4 sentence for Criminal Conspiracy to commit Fraud in Connection with an Identification  
5 Document which is a driver's license, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 371, 1028(a)(1) and  
6 1028(b)(1)(A)(ii), is a term of fifteen (15) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a \$100  
7 special assessment fee, which must be paid at the time of sentencing. Any sentence imposed may  
8 include a term of supervised release of not more than three (3) years in addition to such terms of  
9 imprisonment. Defendant understands that if she violates a condition of supervised release at any  
10 time prior to the expiration of such term, the court may revoke the term of supervised release and  
11 sentence her up to an additional two (2) years of incarceration pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §  
12 3583(e)(3).

13 3(b) If defendant cooperates as set forth in Paragraph 2, the government will recommend  
14 that defendant receive the minimum term of incarceration recommended by the Sentencing  
15 Guidelines.

16 3(c) The government will recommend a fine within the Sentencing Guidelines range. If  
17 defendant is financially unable to immediately pay the fine in full, defendant agrees to make a  
18 full disclosure of his financial status to the United States Attorney's Office by completing a  
19 Financial Disclosure Form (OBD-500) for purpose of fixing a monthly payment schedule.  
20 Defendant understands that, by law, interest accrues on any remaining balance of the debt.

21 4(a) The defendant understands that to establish a violation of Criminal Conspiracy to  
22 commit Fraud in Connection with Identification Documents as charged pursuant to 18 U.S.C. §  
23 371, 1028(a)(1) and 1028(b)(1)(A)(ii), the government must prove each of the following  
24 elements beyond a reasonable doubt:

25 First: beginning on or about the date charged, there was an agreement  
26 between two or more persons to commit the crime of fraud in connection  
with an identification document, specifically, a driver's license;

27 Second: the defendant became a member of the conspiracy knowing of  
28 at least one of its objects and intending to help accomplish it; and

1  
2 Third: one of the members of the conspiracy performed at least one  
3 overt act for the purpose of carrying out the conspiracy, with the jury  
4 unanimously agreeing on the particular overt act that it found was  
5 committed.

6 4(b) To be found guilty of Fraud in Connection with Identification Documents in  
7 violation of Title 18, United States Code §§ 1028(a)(1) and 1028(b)(1)(A)(ii), the government  
8 must prove beyond a reasonable doubt:

9 First: that the defendant knowingly and without lawful authority  
10 produced an identification document, authentication feature or a  
11 false identification document, i.e. a driver's license;

12 Second: the production of this document was in or affected interstate  
13 or foreign commerce.

14 5. The defendant agrees that the Sentencing Guidelines apply to this offense. The  
15 defendant also understands that the facts she stipulates to herein will be used, pursuant to 1B1.2,  
16 in calculating the applicable guidelines level. The Government and the defendant stipulate to the  
17 following facts for purposes of the Sentencing Guidelines:

18 (a) The defendant was born in 1970, and is a citizen of Korea, U.S. Greencard holder.

19 (b) If the defendant cooperates with the United States by providing information  
20 concerning the unlawful activities of others, the government agrees that any self-incriminating  
21 information so provided will not be used against defendant in assessing her punishment, and  
22 therefore, pursuant to § 1B1.3 of the Sentencing Guidelines, this information should not be used  
23 in determining the applicable guidelines range.

24 (c) The defendant entered Guam August 8, 2003, on a Guam Tourist Visa Waiver, and  
25 failed to return to Korea within 15 days. Instead, she illegally remained on Guam. Because she  
26 was in the United States illegally, she was not eligible to secure a U.S. social security number or  
27 a U.S. taxpayer identification number (TIN) or any other document issued by the United States  
28 which would evidence his right to remain in the United States.

The Guam Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) regulations prohibited an alien from receiving  
a three-year Guam drivers license unless he has proof that he is entitled to be in the United

1 States, as evidenced either by an original social security card, an original, notarized letter from  
2 the Social Security Administration authenticating his social security number, or an original letter  
3 from the Internal Revenue Service authenticating his Taxpayer Identification Number (TIN).  
4

5 Defendant knew that regular drivers licenses could be illegally procured from the MVD.  
6 She knew that she had no social security number or other form of authentic United States  
7 identification, so that she would have to obtain the license fraudulently. Defendant met Ms. Lee  
8 at MGM Spa, where defendant was a customer. Ms. Lee was working there. Defendant knew  
9 Ms. Lee was a tester for DMV. Defendant kept asking is there a way to get a drivers license.  
10 Eventually, Ms. Lee said "yes." Defendant bought Ms. Lee dinner and did her favors for the  
11 drivers license. On Mach 16, 2004, Eun Young Lee and the defendant submitted an application  
12 for a driver's license to the MVD, falsely certifying that defendant's TIN was XXX-XX-1770,  
13 which belonged to another person. Defendant took a written exam in Korean, which was  
14 proctored by Eun Young Lee. At a later date, Lee directed her to go to the MVD and pick up her  
15 license. Defendant went to the MVD on March 25, 2004, and was issued license number 122  
16 809 9758. Prior to receiving her license, defendant was given a computer printout of her license  
17 format, which contained the biographical data upon which the license was issued. The driver's  
18 license biographical document reflected XXX-XX-1779 as her "Social Security/ID No."  
19 Defendant paid the \$5 fee and fraudulently received a Guam driver's license. The production,  
20 issuance, transfer and use of this driver's license affected interstate and foreign commerce.

21 (d) The defendant understands that notwithstanding any agreement of the parties, the  
22 United States Probation Office will make an independent application of the Sentencing  
23 Guidelines. The defendant acknowledges that should there be discrepancies in the final  
24 sentencing guidelines range projected by her counsel or any other person, such discrepancies are  
25 not a basis to withdraw her guilty plea.

26 6. The defendant understands that this plea agreement depends on the fullness and  
27 truthfulness of her cooperation. Therefore, defendant understands and agrees that if she should  
28

1 fail to fulfill completely each and every one of her obligations under this plea agreement, or make  
2 material omissions or intentional misstatements or engage in criminal conduct after the entry of  
3 her plea agreement and before sentencing, the government will be free from its obligations under  
4 the plea agreement. Thus defendant, in addition to standing guilty of the matters to which she  
5 has pled pursuant to this agreement, shall also be fully subject to criminal prosecution for other  
6 crimes, and for the counts which were to be dismissed. In any such prosecution, the prosecuting  
7 authorities, whether Federal, State, or Local, shall be free to use against her, without limitation,  
8 any and all information, in whatever form, that she has provided pursuant to this plea agreement  
9 or otherwise; defendant shall not assert any claim under the United States Constitution, any  
10 statute, Rule 11(f) of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure, Rule 410 of the Federal Rules of  
11 Evidence, or any other provision of law, to attempt to bar such use of the information.  
12

13 7. Defendant understands that whether she has completely fulfilled all of the obligations  
14 under this agreement shall be determined by the court in an appropriate proceeding at which any  
15 disclosures and documents provided by defendant shall be admissible and at which the United  
16 States shall be required to establish any breach by a preponderance of the evidence. In  
17 determining whether there has been a breach, the parties agree that any polygraph results and the  
18 polygrapher's conclusions and opinions shall be admissible.

19 8. In exchange for the Government's concessions in this plea agreement, the defendant  
20 waives any right to appeal or to collaterally attack this conviction but reserves the right to appeal  
21 the sentence imposed in this case. She agrees to waive all constitutional challenges to the  
22 validity of the Sentencing Guidelines. The defendant agrees that the government has bargained  
23 for a criminal conviction arising from her conduct. If at any time defendant's guilty plea or  
24 conviction is rejected, withdrawn, vacated or reversed, for whatever reason, or if any change of  
25 law renders the conduct for which she was convicted to be non-criminal, defendant agrees that  
26 she will enter a guilty plea to another charge encompassing the same or similar conduct. In such  
27 event, defendant waives any objections, motions or defenses based upon the Statute of  
28

1 Limitations, Speedy Trial Act, or constitutional restrictions as to the time of bringing such  
2 charges.

3  
4 9. The defendant acknowledges that she has been advised of her rights as set forth below  
5 prior to entering into this plea agreement. Specifically, defendant has been fully advised of, has  
6 had sufficient opportunity to reflect upon, and understands the following:

7 (a) The nature and elements of the charge and the mandatory minimum penalty provided  
8 by law, if any, and the maximum possible penalty provided by law;

9 (b) Her right to be represented by an attorney;

10 (c) Her right to plead not guilty and the right to be tried by a jury and at that trial, the  
11 right to be represented by counsel, the right to confront and cross-examine witnesses against her,  
12 and the right not to be compelled to incriminate herself, that is, the right not to testify;

13 (d) That if she pleads guilty, there will not be a further trial of any kind on the charges to  
14 which such plea is entered so that by entering into this plea agreement, she waives, that is, gives  
15 up, the right to a trial;

16 (e) Because this plea is entered pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure  
17 11(c)(1)(B), the defendant understands that she may not withdraw her guilty plea even if the  
18 court does not accept the sentencing recommendations of the government or her counsel;

19 (f) That, upon entry of a plea of guilty, or thereafter, the Court may ask her questions  
20 about the offenses to which she has pled, under oath, and that if she answers these questions  
21 under oath, on the record, her answers may later be used against her in prosecution for perjury or  
22 false statement if an answer is untrue;

23 (g) That she agrees that the plea agreement is voluntary and not a result of any force,  
24 threats or promises apart from this plea agreement;

25 (h) The defendant is satisfied with the representation of her lawyer and feels that her  
26 lawyer has done everything possible for her defense;

27 //  
28

1 (i) That this plea agreement has been translated into her native language and she fully  
2 understands it.  
3

4 DATED: 5-19-08  
5

Deuk Soon Choi Pereda  
DEUK SOON CHOI PEREDA  
Defendant

6  
7 DATED: 5-19-08  
8

Samuel S. Tekker  
SAMUEL S. TEKER  
Attorney for Defendant

9  
10 LEONARDO M. RAPADAS  
United States Attorney  
Districts of Guam and NMI  
11

12 DATED: 5/20/08  
13

By:

Karon V. Johnson  
KARON V. JOHNSON  
Assistant U.S. Attorney

14  
15 DATED: 5/21/08  
16

Jeffrey J. Strand  
JEFFREY J. STRAND  
First Assistant U.S. Attorney  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28